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Letter dated 12 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency André Bumaya, to the Secretary-General, containing information about the intense preparations by Democratic Republic of the Congo armed forces and their allies, as well as Interahamwe and the Front pour la défense de la démocratie, to attack Rwanda Patriotic Army/Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie positions in Tanganyika/Katanga Sector (see annex).

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Isidor **Munyakazi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 12 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of Rwanda wishes to bring to the attention of the international community the fact that President Kabila and his allies continue to violate the Lusaka Peace Accord. Currently, they are poised to launch attacks on Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA)/Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) forces in Tanganyika/Katanga sector.

Once again, President Kabila and his allies are preparing in earnest to attack our positions in Katanga Province. As will be recalled, on 15 October 2000, as the heads of State met in Maputo and discussed the disengagement process, President Kabila unleashed Interahamwe/ex-Forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) perpetrators of genocide, together with the Forces armées congolaises (FAC) and its allies, against RPA and RCD positions in Pepa and surrounding areas. The intention was to annihilate our forces and take the war to Kigali/Bujumbura. These operations involved one brigade of Interahamwe/ex-FAR and two brigades of the Front pour la défense de la démocratie, in addition to FAC and its allies. RPA/RCD forces initially retreated and reorganized, and later launched a successful counter-attack, ending Kabila's offence. Pweto, which was the springboard for Kabila's offence, was taken in the process.

Currently, President Kabila and his allies are reinforcing troops in Kasenga, Lukonzolwa and Dubie. Zimbabwean forces involved number 2,000 troops, reorganizing in Kasenga and Dubie. Angola has also sent 2,400 soldiers. Helicopter gunships and fighter aircraft are being prepared in Lubumbashi. It should be recalled that the remnants of FAC and Interahamwe/ex-FAR, who had fled to Zambia, found their way back into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and are also being reorganized and prepared to retake Pweto and together with their allies embark on their previously foiled mission.

The Government of Rwanda is disappointed that President Kabila and his allies have consistently chosen the path of war, and regrets that it is the innocent people that always suffer. It is the innocent that will fall victim to this senseless undertaking by President Kabila and his allies. Rwanda wishes to reiterate its commitment to the Lusaka Peace Accord and the Kampala Disengagement Plan. Rwanda reiterates its call on the Secretary-General to deploy more observers in order to allow us to pull back. Rwanda's offer to withdraw 200 kilometres from all forward-deployed positions still holds. Rwanda challenges President Kabila and his allies to reciprocate and give people a chance for peace.

Rwanda's offer of the olive branch, however, should not be misconstrued. Rwanda reserves its responsibility and retains the capability to defend itself. Recently, when President Kabila violated the ceasefire and even though Rwanda was swift to expose the aggression, it was Rwanda which bore the wrath of the Security Council in terms of condemnation for violations that it never committed. The Security Council should be our witness now. The United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should deploy in the area to observe the violations and report to the Security Council. Rwanda calls upon the Security Council to urge President Kabila and his allies to end their ill-advised activities.

(*Signed*) André **Bumaya**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation